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10 JANUARY 1956

NSC BRIEFING

JAPAN-SOVIET TALKS

I. Japan-Soviet peace treaty talks scheduled resume in London 17 Jan.

A. Backed by unified government and public opinion, Japan intends maintain firm initial position.

B. Soviet veto of Japan's UN admission has strengthened Japan's determination not to succumb to Soviet pressure tactics.

II. Chief Soviet negotiator, Malik, has complained that USSR has made all the concessions in talks so far.

A. Have have agreed to return Habomais and Shikotan, dropped demand that Japan agree not to join any military alliances.

B. Will probably now demand that Japan also make concessions.

III. Major issues:

A. Timing of return of Jap POW's (Japan wants them back before treaty, Soviets after).

B. Disposition of Kuriles and South Sakhalin (Japan wants two southernmost Kurile islands on historical grounds, disposition of other territory to be settled later by general international agreement).

C. Freedom of Sea of Japan (USSR wants to ban all but warships of riparian powers from Sea).

1. This issue impinges on US-Japan treaty relations; Japan not likely to give in.

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IV. However, Premier Hatoyama wants quick settlement [redacted] 25X6

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A. If negotiations drag, he may attempt to overrule the foreign ministry, seek compromise on POW, territorial issues (possibly accept one, concede on other).

How many?

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